THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): . (a) and (b) Agricultural exports (including marine, tea, coffee, cotton and castor oil) for the last two years is as given below:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	24301
2000-2001	27422

(c) International trade in agricultural commodities, being a function of various domestic and international factors, projections of performance are made based on past trends. These arc in the nature of estimates.

Promotion of Organic Tea

2393. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea exports have been declining for quite some time;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a new promotion of organic tea; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The export of tea from India registered an increase in terms of quantity in 2000-2001 compared to exports in 1999-2000, the value realization however, had declined in 2000-2001. During 2001-2002

(April—February), export of tea has shown decline of 26.59 Mn. kgs. in quantity terms and by Rs. 335.54 crores in value terms. The details of export of tea during last three years arc as follows:—

Period	Quantity (M.Kgs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	192.44	1922.66
2000-2001	203.55	1889.78
2001-2002* (April—February)	163.16	1424.81
	(189.75)	(1760.35)

'Estimated and subject to revision
() Same period previous year

(b) and (c) Yes, sir. Tea Board has launched a new project for development, production and promotion of organic tea in India. The project is aimed at development of techniques and technology for the production of organic tea in India by setting up of model organic farms. The project will develop the necessary technology to convert existing tea areas to organic tea gardens and also develop acceptable international export standards for organic tea.

Tea Board of India will execute the project at the country level through a Core Committee. Inter Governmental Group on tea of FAO and Production and Market Development and Promotion Division, International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/WTO will be the supervisory body. The Sugar and Beverages Groups of the commodities and Trade Division of FAO will be the project executing agency.

So far, targets are fixed for production of tea overall and not separately for organic tea.